

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday December 10th, 2023

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### News from the IRTS

Due to an unfortunate delay outside our control with the distribution of the winter edition of Echo Ireland containing the draft constitution, the original proposed response date for feedback on the constitution has been extended to December 31st. This is to allow IRTS members a better opportunity to review it. The current constitution is available on the downloads section of the IRTS website should you wish to compare the two documents. The email address for feedback is [constitution@irts.ie](mailto:constitution@irts.ie). Please note that submissions will only be accepted from fully paid up IRTS clubs and members. All related information is available on the IRTS Constitution and Rules Review page at [www.irts.ie/constreview](http://www.irts.ie/constreview)

The IRTS wish to announce the appointment of a new Youth Officer to the society. Ana Cañizares Bejarano EI5IXB takes over the youth officer role from Niall Donohue EI6HIB who recently resigned due to family commitments. Ana brings a wealth of experience to the role in dealing with youth and will bring this experience to the fore in promoting the hobby to the youth and this in turn will lead to more youngsters taking up this great hobby. Ana was also very heavily involved with the recent ISS contact between schools based in Dublin and the International Space Station. We all wish Ana the best of luck in her new role.

The first IRTS contest of 2024 will be the IRTS 80m Counties Contest and it will take place on Monday the 1st of January 2024, starting at 17:00 UTC, for the duration of one hour. This generally follows the very successful format of the 40 meters contest. The full rules are available in the contest section on the IRTS website [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie) The contest is open to all. EI and GI stations must send their county abbreviation as well as the report and a serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. Please note the rule about the permitted frequencies for this contest, which are for CW 3.510 MHz to 3.560 MHz and for SSB, 3.600 MHz to 3.650 MHz, in addition to 3.700 MHz to 3.775 MHz. The very popular contest logging software SD by EI5DI supports this contest and is available as a free download from EI5DI.com.

The society would like to extend its thanks to Engineers Ireland for the opportunity to present a talk in its headquarters on Clyde Rd, Dublin earlier this week, on how amateur radio can help in the development of science, technology, engineering, art, and maths and have a positive influence on future engineers. Attending Radio amateurs were made very welcome on the night and a good online attendance also joined in. The presentation can be viewed on the Engineers Ireland YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AaXonLS3njo>).

To coincide with the launch of EIRSAT-1, the recently formed teacher support body "OIDE" has with the assistance of South Dublin Radio Club, developed a learning pack for 2nd level students based on "Radio Communication". This pack also contains a SDR receiver station which can be put together in minutes and students can see a visual display of the radio spectrum. Castleknock College in Dublin was amongst the five to receive this pack during the week where it went down as a great success amongst students. More details can be found on the ScoilNet website located at [www.scoilnet.ie/learning-path/ref/22901](http://www.scoilnet.ie/learning-path/ref/22901)

As in previous years, the IRTS News Team will be taking a small break over the Christmas period. The last 40m and 80m IRTS news bulletins for 2023 will be transmitted on Sunday, December 17th. There will be no news bulletins on either Sunday December 24th or Sunday, December 31st. Normal bulletins will resume on Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

The committee and officers of the IRTS would like to wish all our members and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we hope that 2024 is a great new year for all of you. Thank you all for your great support of the society in 2023 and we look forward to your continued support throughout 2024 and beyond.

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### **South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC**

The committee and members of EI2WRC would like to take this opportunity to wish all their radio friends and families in Ireland and all around the world a very happy, safe, and peaceful Christmas 2023. The club hopes you all have a wonderful festive time, and that Santa is good to you and brings you all the latest Yaesu and Icom radios! They would also like to extend every good wish to you all for the new year ahead. The club hopes that 2024 brings you all the very best of health, wealth, and of course, plenty of new DXCC entities. To find out more about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details, please see [www.searg.ie](http://www.searg.ie)

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### **Tipperary Amateur Radio Group AGM**

On Wednesday the 6th of December 2023 last, members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group met at the Princess Bar, Clonmel at 8 p.m. for their Annual General Meeting. This was a well-attended meeting with group members travelling from Co. Kilkenny, Co. Waterford, and Co. Cork joining their Co. Tipperary based colleagues. Andy EI5JF chaired this very productive meeting, and TARG Secretary John EI7IG read the minutes of the previous AGM. Group treasurer Thomas EI2IT reported a healthy financial situation.

A review of the year as well as upcoming activities were discussed at length by the group members. The callsign EI30T will be aired on the various Amateur Radio Bands over the coming year to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group since its formation in 1994. Congratulations were extended to group members Tom EI5JDB and

Eddie EI5JNB who were successful in passing the HAREC exam which they sat last November. Brian EI2JKB was acknowledged for his efforts in reading the weekly IRTS News every Sunday at 9.30 p.m. on 145.450 MHz FM. It was decided that the venue for all group meetings in 2024 will be the Princess Bar, Irishtown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. The meeting concluded at 11 p.m. when Andy EI5JF thanked all for their input and attendance at this AGM of TARG.

The new committee was elected as follows: Chairman Andy Jay EI5JF, Vice Chairman Brian Kelly EI2JKB, Secretary John Ronan EI7IG, Treasurer Thomas Hallinan EI2IT, Group PRO Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI, and Events & QSL Manager Paul Norris EI3ENB. For more information about T.A.R.G, visit the group website [www.ei7trg.ie](http://www.ei7trg.ie) or you can email them at ei7trg /at/ gmail.com.

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### **South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party**

South Dublin Radio Club wish to remind you that their Christmas Party will take place on Tuesday the 12th of December 2023 at 8 p.m. The venue will be the "The Morgue" pub in Templeogue Village, Dublin. Members of other clubs and visitors are as usual very welcome to this social event. Limited free food will be available for paid-up members and visitors can choose from the bar menu until 9 p.m. The club will then break for Christmas and return on January 9th, 2024.

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### **Limerick Clare Amateur Radio Club**

Limerick Claire Amateur Radio Club report that they have activated their club station in the Shannon Aviation Museum, call sign EI4SAM every Saturday for most of 2023. This has proved to be very popular with lots of members and stations from around EI and beyond calling in. Volunteers are always required to operate the station and licensed amateurs as well as SWLs are more than welcome. Activation is usually between 11.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m., initially on 7.123 MHz plus or minus QRM, followed by a check on other bands.

Over 400 Transition Year students from several schools have visited the club station in recent weeks. EI2GT has provided talks which added significantly to the students' knowledge of and interest in amateur radio. The club was particularly active during Engineers Week with many students from primary and secondary schools experiencing their first introduction to amateur radio with presentations from EI2GT and EI7ALB, along with some science demonstrations such as the various ways of generating electricity.

Monthly meetings have resumed on the second Thursday of each month in the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands, Midwest in Moylish, Limerick and topics to date, have covered the use of the Raspberry Pi and the challenges in erecting a

horizontal loop antenna.

Finally, they have some important diary dates. Their club rally is scheduled to take place on Sunday February 25th at a venue to be decided and details will be announced shortly. The next club meeting will be held on December 14th and their club AGM will be held on February 14th.

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### **Radio Scouting Ireland Update**

Radio Scouting Ireland teams have been busy since JOTA-JOTI. Firstly, Albert EI6KO and John EI3ISB visited Rathdrum Scouts for a ham radio demo at their weekly meeting. Following a presentation explaining Amateur Radio and Radio Scouting to a very enthusiastic bunch of scouts and leaders, they then took part in making their first QSOs using the EI10JOTA callsign. On Saturday 25th, Marty EI2IAB, Jim EI4HH, and Keith EI5KO set up four stations for the Scouting Ireland Scouting Together Friendship Day in Larch Hill.

The event was especially relevant given the awful scenes in Dublin City just two days before. The Scout and Ukraine Friendship Day invited over 200 young people from Ukraine and youth members of Scout Groups in Dublin to make new friends through fun, play, and adventure in scouting. Both events were very uplifting due to the enthusiasm and appreciation from all the youth and leaders involved.

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### **Shannon Basin Radio Club Update Regarding the 2024 IRTS AGM Weekend**

The 2024 IRTS AGM Weekend hosted by Shannon Basin Radio Club will be held in the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway over the weekend of April 13th and 14th, 2024. The hotel reports swift uptake for rooms using the specially reduced room rate for the event and that only a few remain. Therefore, to avoid disappointment, the club advises you to call or email the hotel as soon as possible to secure one. Please quote reference 501365 when making your bookings over the phone or via email to the hotel. The Shearwater Hotel may be contacted at +353 90 9630400 or via email to [info /at/ shearwaterhotel.com](mailto:info@shearwaterhotel.com).

Following last year's highly successful Shannon Basin Radio Club rally as part of the AGM weekend, trader and club table bookings for the radio rally have also been swift. You are advised to contact admin [/at/ sbrc.ie](mailto:info@sbrc.ie) as soon as possible to secure trader or club tables. Further details are available at [www.sbrc.ie/agmweekend](http://www.sbrc.ie/agmweekend)

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news, which will be the last one for 2023, can be submitted by email to [newsteam /at/ irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

